

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Oakland Army Base Restoration Advisory Board**  
**West Oakland Senior Center**  
**August 25, 1999**

***RAB Members Present:***

Doug Bonacum; Roger Caswell, Mary M. Gilmore; Mary Ann Parker; Phillip Ramsey, U.S. EPA; Xuan-Mai Tran; U.S. EPA; Henry Wong, DTSC

***RAB Members Not Present:***

Mel Blair; Saul Bloom; Ron Brown; Rod Carter; Andrew Clark-Clough; Gordon Coleman; Mike Dryden; Margaret Gordon; Lynn Kriegbaum, Oakland Army Base; Joel Kushins; Roderick Klugh; Bob MacDonald; Oscar Odegaard; Stefanie Parrott; Adeline Sweeney; Josefina Vasquez; David Wilson; Ellen Wyrick-Parkinson

***Others Present:***

Rick Andrews, OARB; Nelson Cancio, OARB; Jennifer Cross, Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation; Mark Luttrell, IT Group; Melita Rorty, IT Group

**Welcome Remarks**

The Oakland Army Base Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting was held on August 25, 1999 at the West Oakland Senior Center, 1724 Adeline Street. Mr. Caswell called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Mr. Caswell thanked those that attended the OARB tour.

**1. Old Business**

**a) Approval of June 23, 1999 and July 28, 1999 meeting minutes**

Mr. Caswell verified that a quorum was not present. Meeting minutes were not approved.

**2. New Business**

**a) Election of New Co-Chair Person**

A quorum is not present.

**b) Membership Subcommittee Report – Stefanie Parrott**

Ms. Parrott is not present.

**c) Public Outreach Subcommittee Report – Mary Ann Parker**

Ms. Parker stated that there is no new business.

**d) Technical Review Subcommittee Report – Joel Kushins**

Mr. Kushins is not present. Mr. Caswell stated that he provided Saul Bloom a copy of UST Closure Report and the OU-3 report for review.

**e) Holiday RAB Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Caswell stated that the November and December RAB meetings will be combined and conducted on December 8, 1999.

Mr. Ramsey stated that Mr. Dryden had said last month that the RAB might want to consider going to a bi-monthly or quarterly meeting. Mr. Caswell said that the CERCLA process is slow and it is sometimes difficult to fill up the time at the meetings. Mr. Ramsey responded that there are plenty of things that the Army could do at the RAB meetings. Mr. Ramsey recommended having presentations on OUs, feasibility studies and EE/CAs. The Army is getting closer to making important decisions about things on the base. He recommended that the community get involved and provide their input.

Mr. Doug Bonacum agreed that this would be helpful. He thought it would be nice to have more background information and then he would feel like he could contribute more comments to the feasibility studies. Mr. Caswell asked him if he had received all of the previous minutes. Mr. Bonacum stated that he had. Mr. Caswell stated that the back minutes should bring him up to speed on the RI issues.

Mr. Caswell stated that we could talk about OU-4 or the FS at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Luttrell said he would give a RAB presentation discussing the CERCLA process steps that occurred over the past 2.5 years.

**f) Remedial Project Manager's Meeting Report – Roger Caswell, BEC OARB**

OU-1: Draft RI Report, Rev. C to be submitted Aug 27, 1999. Ms. Rorty with IT Group will speak on the historical search tonight.

OU-2: RI Report, Rev. C is going back to the state for final approval. The final report should be issued in late September. There will be a combination FS for OU numbers 1, 2, 3, and 7.

OU-3: The RI Report was issued to the agencies on July 9, 1999. A copy was of the report was given to Saul Bloom for RAB technical subcommittee review. DTSC comments on Rev. C will be received by the end of the week.

OU-4: The RAB attendees saw the spit and wharf areas during the base tour tonight. IT is putting together a work plan to investigate the areas of concern under the Remedial Investigation part of the CERCLA process. The regulators and the Army are going to sit

down and review the data quality objectives (DQOs) in mid-September. Mr. Ramsey recommended that OU-4 scoping could be presented at a future RAB meeting.

OU-5: The Revision C of the Technical Memorandum will be submitted to the regulators at the end of August. Of the 14 parcels in this OU, 12 are expected to be available for transfer in spring 2000 without further investigation. The remaining 2 will require a slight amount of further characterization but remedial or removal actions are not anticipated and these should be available for transfer in August 2000.

OU-6: placeholder.

OU-7: Final comments on the Supplemental Investigation have been received from the regulators and the RI report is considered complete. The data from the additional sampling in the 2 new wells this spring will be included in the Feasibility Study which includes the 4 OUs mentioned above.

Tank sites: The work plan for the USTs and oil/water separator removal was approved and will be started the second week in September. Underground utilities clearance will be on the 13th of September. The excavation portion will begin the following week. This is a 9 week program that should finish by November 1, 1999. A local minority business, MicroSearch, will perform the tank removal.

#### **e) Update Action Items List**

No new action items.

### **3. Presentation**

#### **a) Historical Document Search– Ms. Rorty – IT Group**

During last months presentation on OU-1, some questions were raised about the adequacy of the Site Investigation and Environmental Baseline Survey when it appeared that these historical searches had failed to reveal the source of the Building 1 “ooze”. The work had focused on the Army period of occupancy that limited the document research to no earlier than 1941 along with a USEPA aerial photo interpretation (EPIC) that only went back to 1947. Ms. Melitta Rorty of IT presented the results of additional history research prior to the Army period which was conducted at the Oakland Public and UC Berkeley libraries and at Pacific Aerial Photo which maintains an archive business.

No new surprises came from the additional investigation but it did provide extra detail on the industrial activities on the small portion of dry land that was later surrounded by fill to form the Army base and much of the Oakland waterfront. That small amount of dry land was essentially an island connected by causeways to the shore and held a shipbuilding operation, primarily Building 99, in 1918. The names and sizes of the ships, the company names, and the periods of operation were found. On a 1925 map, a “waste oil reclaiming plant” is noted near Building 99 and in a location where the “ooze” is found now. This plant is also shown on a 1941 photo. The oil plant consisted of some tanks, a still for boiling out the usable oil fractions, an office, and a boiler. The heavy oils left over after distillation may have been disposed at the tidal margin in back of the plant and could account for the present-day “ooze”.

Mr. Caswell brought in historical photographs showing the areas. Ms. Rorty had handouts that included reproductions of the historical maps.

Mr. Ramsey asked if the area stained in the photographs is in fact the footprint of the ooze area. Ms. Rorty stated that she believes that it is. The plant is located right in the middle of the black stain on the photographs.

Mr. Bonocum asked if there will be additional sampling. Ms. Rorty stated that additional sampling will be done.

The new historical research found no other indication of fill, building, and industrialization on the current base site and it's felt that these pre-Army contaminations are limited to the original 1918 shipbuilding area. The new findings will be included in the final OU-1 Remedial Investigation report and also published as a stand-alone document. The BRAC parcels that Buildings 1 and 99 sit on are included in the consolidated Feasibility Study and will have further actions taken.

#### **4. Open Forum**

Mr. Ramsey has been redirected to work on another base. He introduced Xuan-Mai Tran, his replacement. She has worked with the USEPA for the last five years. He thanked the Army and communities members for their time and dedication to this RAB.

#### **5. Adjourn**

Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

---

Roger Caswell, Army Co-Chair

Date

---

Prepared by Jennifer Cross, Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation

Date